

Message Text

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USMISSION GENEVA

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AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

USINT HAVANA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS, JM

SUBJECT: LAW OF THE SEA

1. IN HIS JUNE 14 SPEECH TO PARLIAMENT, FONMIN P.J. PATTERSON DESCRIBED THE UN CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA AS AMONG THE MOST IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY. HE NOTED THAT THE 7TH SESSION RECENTLY COMPLETED IN GENEVA WAS VERY DIFFICULT BUT THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED WAS ENCOURAGING AND THAT ALL DELEGATIONS ARE ANXIOUS TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM WHEN THE SESSION RESUMES IN AUGUST. THE GOJ SEES THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE AS RESTRUCTURING THE BOUNDARIES OF NATIONS AND THEREFORE A MATTER WITH FAR-REACHING CONSEQUENCES FOR THE FUTURE OF MANKIND. IT ALSO VIEWS LOS ISSUES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE QUEST FOR A NEW

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INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER, WHEREIN THE EARTH'S RESOURCES CANNOT BE REGARDED AS LIMITED TO THOSE OF THE LAND SURFACES. THE GOJ IS ANXIOUS TO COMPLETE THE LOS CONFERENCE AND TO IMPLEMENT MINING OF THE DEEP SEA BED WITH THE RESULTING PROCEEDS TO BE DISTRIBUTED BY A FORMULA FAVORING THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE GOJ ALSO SUPPORTS SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS PROTECTING THOSE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES ADVERSELY

AFFECTED BY REDUCED REVENUE FROM THEIR LAND-BASED MINES BY VIRTUE OF INCREASED WORLDWIDE PRODUCTION FROM THE SEABED. IN VIEW OF THE POOR FISH RESOURCES IN AREAS NEAR JAMAICA, THE GOJ SEEKS AN ARTICLE IN THE LOS CONVENTION WHICH WOULD GUARANTEE ACCESS TO LIVING RESOURCES OF NEIGHBORING ECONOMIC ZONES AS A CONDITION OF ITS ACCEPTANCE OF THE 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE. THE GOJ ALSO SUPPORTS STRICT PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION OF MARINE ENVIRONMENT. THE GOJ'S POLICY ON THE QUESTION OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IS THAT MARINE RESEARCH IN THE ECONOMIC ZONE SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE CONSENT OF THE COASTAL STATE AS BEFITS THE PRINCIPLE OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER ITS RESOURCES. THIS APPLIES TO PURE SCIENCE RESEARCH AS WELL AS TO OIL, MINERAL OR OTHER RESOURCE INVESTIGATIONS. THE FONMIN EMPHASIZED THAT THE OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE OF JAMAICA'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE LOS DISCUSSIONS LIES IN THE NEED TO AVOID A SCRAMBLE FOR DEPOSITS OF MANGANESE MODULES ON THE SEABED AND THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH AN EVENT.

2. THE FONMIN INFORMED PARLIAMENT THAT JAMAICA CONTINUES TO PRESS ITS CASE FOR SELECTION AS THE SITE OF AN INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY. ITS PRESENCE HERE WOULD PRODUCE DEFINITE SOCIO-ECONOMIC BENEFITS AS WELL AS ADDED INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE FOR JAMAICA BUT, MOST IMPORTANTLY, WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE LEVEL OF TECHNOLOGY AND EXPERTISE OF THE COUNTRY. THE GOJ SUPPORTS THE CONCEPT OF AN I.S.A. TO SAFEGUARD THE UNCLASSIFIED

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INTERESTS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES VIS-A-VIS THE ADVANCED COUNTRIES WHICH POSSESS THE FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND SPECIALIZED TECHNOLOGY FOR SEABED MINING.

3. IN CONJUNCTION WITH HIS REMARKS ON THE LOS, THE FONMIN ALSO EXPRESSED HIS GOVERNMENT'S CONVICTION THAT THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY FROM DEVELOPED TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN IN ORDER TO PROMOTE THIRD WORLD DEVELOPMENT AND TO OFFSET THE TECHNOLOGICAL INBALANCE STEMMING FROM COLONIZATION. HE NOTED THAT NEGOTIATIONS ARE PROCEEDING WITH THIS GOAL IN MIND. IRVING

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